

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A check valve for a canister adapted to receive fluids, said canister having a vacuum port for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing a flow of fluids into said canister, said check valve being operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined upper level, said check valve comprising:
  - (a) a floatball operably coupled to a needle valve, said floatball being positioned below said needle valve to lift said needle valve upwardly to close said vacuum port when said fluids reach said upper level; and
  - (b) a floatball cage for housing said floatball, said floatball cage comprising a needle valve guide for slidably retaining said needle valve.
3. (Currently amended) A check valve for a canister adapted to receive fluids, said canister having a vacuum port for application of vacuum to said canister for inducing a flow of fluids into said canister, said check valve being operably coupled to said vacuum port for stopping said application of vacuum to said canister when said fluids in said canister reach a pre-determined upper level, said check valve comprising:
  - (a) a floatball;
  - (b) a cage for housing said floatball;
  - (c) a needle valve;

(d) a needle valve guide for slidably retaining said needle valve, said needle valve being positioned to be engaged by said floatball to close said vacuum port; said floatball being positioned below said needle valve to engage said needle valve and lift said needle valve upwardly to close said vacuum port when said fluids reach said upper level.

4. (new) The check valve according to claim 2 or 3 wherein said fluids are body fluids produced during surgery.